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**A new species of the *Aleochara laevigata* group from Spain, with  
notes on *A. rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ and additional records  
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)**

V. ASSING

**A b s t r a c t :** *Aleochara (Xenochara) inescata* nov.sp. (northern Spain) of the *A. laevigata* group is described and illustrated. The holotype of *A. rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ is revised and illustrated. Additional records of *Aleochara* species of the subgenus *Xenochara* MULSANT & REY 1874 are reported from the Palaearctic region, among them eight new country records.

**K e y   w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Aleochara*, *Xenochara*, Palaearctic region, Spain, taxonomy, new species, revision, additional records.

### Introduction

The speciose genus *Aleochara* GRAVENHORST 1802 is represented in the Palaearctic region by approximately 230 species (six nomina dubia not included) in 13 subgenera. Almost half of these species belong to the subgenus *Xenochara* MULSANT & REY 1874. Several species groups have been identified in *Xenochara*. One of them is the *A. laevigata* group, which previously comprised seven species distributed in the Palaearctic region: *A. laevigata* GYLLENHAL 1810, *A. signata* (SAHLBERG 1876), *A. ionae* GRIDELLI 1924, *A. accepta* LIKOVSKÝ 1972, *A. grandeguttata* ASSING 2009, *A. brevilaminata* ASSING 2009, and *A. falcata* ASSING 2009. The species of this group were recently revised (ASSING 2009). The only species previously reported from Spain is *A. laevigata*. Benedikt Feldmann recently communicated three specimens of the *Aleochara laevigata* group to me, which he had discovered while mounting material collected from pigeon dung in northern Spain and which he suspected to different from *A. laevigata* and its allies. A subsequent examination of these specimens revealed that they indeed belong to an undescribed species. Also, additional material of *Xenochara* species has been examined since the latest contribution to the taxonomy of this subgenus (ASSING 2009), among them the previously unrevised holotype of *A. rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ 1964, a species whose description is based on a single female from northern Greece.

## Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following public institutions and private collections:

HNHM ..... Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Gy. Makranczy)  
NMP ..... National Museum of Natural History, Praha (J. Hájek)  
cAnl ..... private collection Sinan Anlaş, Turgutlu  
cAss ..... author's private collection  
cFel ..... private collection Benedikt Feldmann, Münster  
cGon ..... private collection Andrej Gontarenko, Odessa  
cRos ..... private collection Armin Rose, Berne-Weserdeich  
cSch ..... private collection Michael Schülke, Berlin  
cWun ..... private collection Paul Wunderle, Mönchengladbach

The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra, and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the aedeagal capsule.

## Results

### *Aleochara (Xenochara) laevigata* GYLLENHAL 1810

Material examined: Turkey: 2 exs., Isparta, Gölcük, 3.VII.2008, leg. Janosvilli (cAnl, cAss).

Comment: Until recently, *A. laevigata* had been confounded with other species of the *A. laevigata* group, so that its distribution requires revision. In Turkey, it was previously known from several provinces in western, northern, and eastern Anatolia (ASSING 2007, 2009).

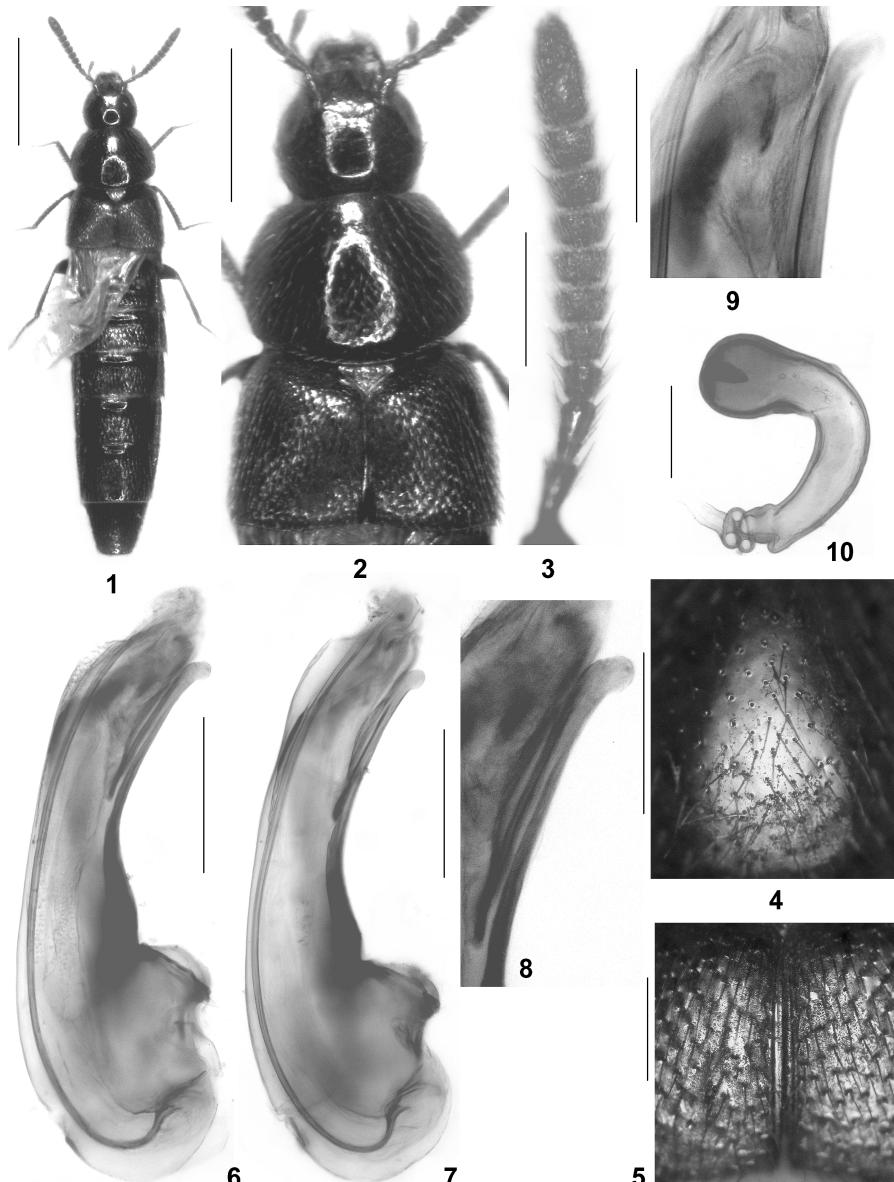
### *Aleochara (Xenochara) grandeguttata* ASSING 2009

Material examined: Hungary: 1 ex., Velencei-hegys., Nadap, Meleg-hegy, 15.X.1951, leg. Kaszab (HNHM); 1 ex., Mosonmagyaróvár, 10.VII.1945, leg. Révy (HNHM); 1 ex., Mosonmagyaróvár, 18.V.1944, leg. Révy (HNHM); 1 ex., Mosonmagyaróvár, 22.VI.1946, leg. Révy (HNHM); 1 ex., Mosonmagyaróvár, 21.V.1945, leg. Révy (HNHM); 1 ex., Mosonmagyaróvár, 3.IV.1944, leg. Révy (HNHM); 1 ex., Pécs, 1906, leg. Kaufmann (HNHM); 7 exs., Györ, leg. Bokor (HNHM); 1 ex., Érd, leg. Csiki (HNHM). Romania: 1 ex., Nagyenyed [= Aiud], 2.V.1907 (HNHM).

Comment: The above material confirms the - previously uncertain (ASSING 2009) - presence of this recently described species in Hungary. The specimen from Romania represents a new country record.

***Aleochara (Xenochara) inescata* nov.sp. (Figs 1-10)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N-Spanien (27), Biesca [recte: Biescas], Taubenmist, 14.VI.91, P. Wunderle / Holotypus ♂ *Aleochara inescata* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2010" (cAss). Paratypes: 1♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (cFel, cWun).



Figs 1-10: *Aleochara inescata* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) antenna; (4) median portion of pronotum; (5) sutural portion of elytra; (6-7) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (8) apical portion of ventral process of aedeagus in lateral view; (9) apical internal structures of aedeagus in lateral view; (10) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2: 0.5 mm; 3-7: 0.2 mm; 8-10: 0.1 mm.

**D e s c r i p t i o n :** Body length 4.2-5.0 mm. Coloration: head, pronotum, and abdomen blackish; elytra blackish-brown, posteriorly near sutural angle at most indistinctly paler, without reddish spot; femora and tibiae blackish-brown, tarsi brown; antennae blackish, with antennomeres I-III dark-brown; maxillary palpi dark-brown, with palpomere IV (including apical pseudosegment) reddish.

Habitus relatively slender (Fig. 1). Whole dorsal aspect of body without microsculpture (Figs 2, 4-5). Head with very fine and sparse punctation. Eyes large, but weakly convex, somewhat longer than postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 2). Maxillary palpomere III moderately slender, approximately 2.5-3.0 times as long as broad. Antennae short (Fig. 3), approximately 0.8 mm long; antennomeres V-X strongly transverse.

Pronotum approximately 1.35 times as wide as long and 1.6 times as wide as head; posterior angles rounded, indistinct (Fig. 2); punctation fine, but less so than that of head, and sparse (Fig. 4).

Elytra approximately 0.71-0.75 times as long as pronotum; posterior margin not distinctly sinuate near lateral angles; punctation much coarser and denser than that of pronotum (Fig. 5). Hind wings fully developed.

Abdomen somewhat narrower than pronotum; punctation rather dense and coarse.

♂: posterior margin of tergite VIII concave in the middle; posterior margin of sternite VIII weakly and obtusely produced in the middle, with fringe of long thin marginal setae; median lobe of aedeagus shaped as in Figs 6-8, base of ventral process somewhat bulging in lateral view; apical internal structures very weakly sclerotized, barely noticeable (Fig. 9).

♀: posterior margin of tergite VIII very indistinctly concave; posterior margin of sternite VIII broadly convex and with fringe of shorter and stouter marginal setae; spermatheca as in Fig. 10.

**E t y m o l o g y :** The specific epithet is the past participle of the Latin verb *inescare* (to bait) and refers to the circumstances of collection.

**C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s :** The new species is readily distinguished from *A. laevigata* by the shorter antennae, somewhat less oblong maxillary palpomeres III, the different coloration of the elytra (in *A. laevigata* posteriorly usually with a distinct reddish spot), the shape of the spermatheca (shorter proximal portion of the capsule, differently shaped distal portion), and particularly the morphology of the aedeagus (shapes of ventral process, flagellum, and apical internal structures).

The aedeagus most resembles that of *A. falcata* (Russia), from which *A. inescata* is distinguished by the more slender body, the distinctly shorter antennae (*A. falcata*: approximately 1.1 mm) with much more transverse antennomeres V-X, the less oblong maxillary palpomeres III (*A. falcata*: more than three times as long as wide), the coloration of the elytra (*A. falcata*: posteriorly with reddish spot), and by the more weakly sclerotized and differently shaped apical internal structures of the aedeagus.

The habitus (including the morphology of the antennae) and coloration are most similar to those of *A. lonae* (southern Balkans), from which *A. inescata* is separated by the different morphology of the aedeagus (broader apex and less bulging base of ventral process in lateral view; differently shaped crista apicalis; weakly sclerotized and differently shaped apical internal structures).

For illustrations of the previously known species of the *A. laevigata* group see ASSING (2009).

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated in Aragón, Western Pyrenees, northern Spain. The specimens were baited with pigeon dung at an altitude of approximately 900 m.

***Aleochara (Xenochara) gontarenkoi* ASSING 2009**

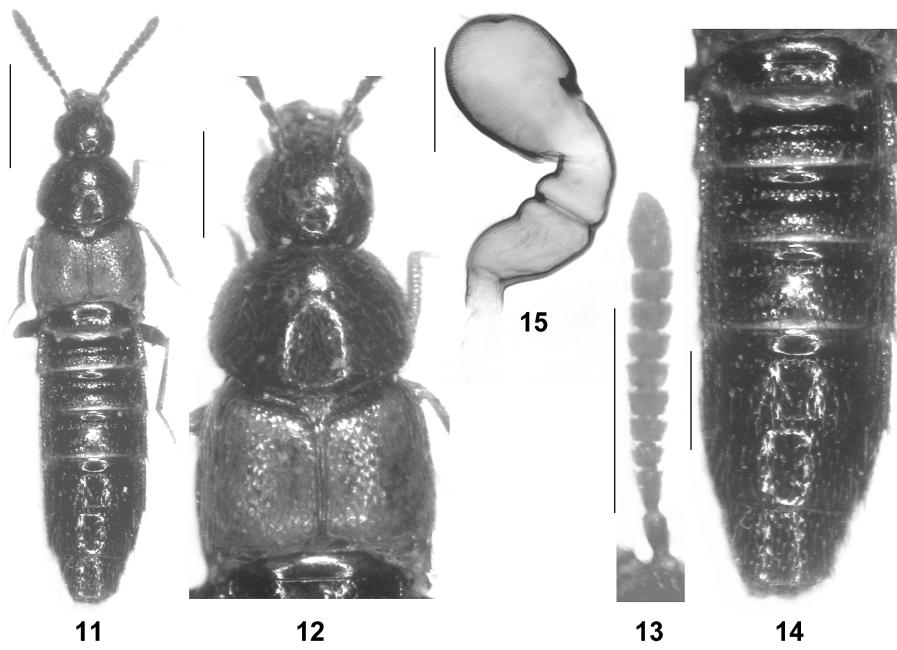
Material examined: Ukraine: 2 exs., Odessa, Korsuncy env., gopher hole, 12.IV.2000, leg. Gontarenko (cGon, cAss); 2 exs., same data, but 28.IV.2006 (cGon); 1 ex., same data, but 7.IV.1996 (cGon).

Comment: The known distribution of this recently described, nidicolous species is confined to Ukraine and eastern Anatolia (ASSING 2009).

***Aleochara (Xenochara) rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ 1964 (Figs 11-15)**

*Aleochara (Polychara) rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ 1964: 35 ff.

Type material examined: Holotype ♀: "Maced. Perister, alpin. VII.-14, Dr. Rambousek / haemoptera / Holotypus Aleochara rambouseki m., Zb. Likovský det. 64 / Collectio Rambousek / Mus. Nat. Pragae, Inv. 20600 / Aleochara rambouseki Likovský, det. V. Assing 2009" (NMP).



Figs 11-15: *Aleochara rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ, holotype: (11) habitus; (12) forebody; (13) antenna; (14) abdomen; (15) spermatheca. Scale bars: 11: 1.0 mm; 12-14: 0.5 mm; 15: 0.1 mm.

Comment: The original description is based on a single female holotype from "Macedonia: Perister, alpin" (LIKOVSKÝ 1964). *Aleochara rambouseki* somewhat resembles species of the *A. sparsa* group (Fig. 11), without distinct microsculpture on the

forebody (Fig. 12), rather stout antennae (Fig. 13), and distinctly punctate anterior impressions on the abdominal tergites III-V (Fig. 14), but is distinguished by uniformly dark-yellowish elytra. The spermatheca is of simple morphology and not very distinctive (Fig. 15). It is similar to that of *A. hamulata* ASSING 2009 of the *A. cornuta* group. Both species, however, are separated based on external characters. *Aleochara rambouseki* is distinctly smaller, has much shorter antennae with more transverse antennomeres, yellowish (not reddish) elytra, reddish-brown legs, and a less coarsely and more sparsely punctate abdomen. Nevertheless, the possibility that the holotype of *A. rambouseki* represents an aberrant, nanistic specimen and that this specimen is conspecific with the type material of *A. hamulata* cannot be ruled out completely. Males from the vicinity of the type locality would be needed to clarify this.

#### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) discipennis* MULSANT & REY 1853**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Russia: 6 exs., W-Caucasus, 20 km NE Krasnaya Polyana, Pslukh cord., 990 m, manure, 26.VI.2000, leg. Putchkov (cAss, cFel, cSch). Georgia: 3 exs., Martveli district, 3 km NE Doberzeni vill., Tekhuri river valley, 250-300 m, 15.-20.VI.2006, leg. Putchkov (cSch, cAss).

C o m m e n t : The previously known distribution ranged from Spain to Turkey (ASSING 2009). The above specimens represent the first records from Russia and Georgia.

#### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) tenuicornis* KRAATZ 1856**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Israel: 1 ex., Golan Heights, Bentat Reservoir near Merom Golan, 33°08'N, 35°47'E, 940 m, 25.III.2008, leg. Aßmann (cAss).

C o m m e n t : This species is rather widespread from Spain to Middle Asia, but has been recorded only rarely (ASSING 2009).

#### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) maculipennis* BAUDI DI SELVE 1857**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Greece: 1 ex., Rhodos, Kolymbia, V.2000, leg. Bellmann (cRos). Turkey: 1 ex., Antalya, 5 km E Kumluca, 36°23'N, 30°23'E, 550 m, dry pasture, cow-dung, 25.III.2001, leg. Rose (cRos).

C o m m e n t : The previously known distribution ranged from Turkey and Cyprus to the Israel, Iran, and Iraq (ASSING 2009). The above specimen from Rhodos represents the first record from Greece.

#### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) lygaea* KRAATZ 1862**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Spain: 1 ex., Aragón, Biescas, ca. 900 m, in pigeon dung bait, 14.VI.1991, leg. Wunderle (cFel).

C o m m e n t : The above specimen represents the first record of this trans-Palaearctic species from Spain (ASSING 2009, SMETANA 2004).

#### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) tristis* GRAVENHORST 1806**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Georgia: 1 ex., Telavi district, 3 km S Kobadze, Gombori pass, 1700 m, 1.-4.VII.2008, leg. Putchkov (cSch). Uzbekistan: 7 exs., Nuratau mts., Nurata env., 800-

1000 m, 20.-30.X.2007, leg. Gurko (cSch, cAss). Afghanistan: 5 exs., Hindu Kush, NE Salang pass, 2300 -2600 m, 35°27'N, 68°58'E, 6.XI.2009, leg. Reuter (cFel); 2 exs., Baghlan province, N Salang pass, IV.2010, leg Reuter (cFel).

**C o m m e n t :** According to SMETANA (2004), this Cosmopolitan species was previously unknown from Georgia.

### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) moesta* GRAVENHORST 1802**

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** Iraq: 1 ex., N Mosul, SW Hakkari, Al-Amadiya, 1200 m, 28.IV.2007, leg. Reuter (cFel). Pakistan: 6 exs., NW Frontier province, Kaghan valley near Sighban, 2200 m, 20.VIII.2004, leg. Gurko (cSch, cAss). Afghanistan: 3 exs., NE, Shiwa Lake 2800-2900 m, 37°14'N, 70°58'E, 19.-21.VII.2008, leg. Reuter (cFel); 1 ex., Baghlan province, N Salang pass, IV.2010, leg Reuter (cFel).

**C o m m e n t :** According to SMETANA (2004), this very widespread species was previously unknown from Iraq and Pakistan.

### ***Aleochara (Xenochara) semirubra* GRAËLLS 1858**

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** Spain: 1 ex., Burgos, E Castrojeriz, 4.X.2000, leg. Starke (cFel).

**C o m m e n t :** According to SMETANA (2004), the distribution of this rarely found species is confined to the Western Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco, Spain, France).

## **Acknowledgements**

My thanks are extended to the colleagues listed in the materials section for the loan of material from their respective collections. György Makranczy, Budapest, kindly checked the Hungarian localities. In particular, I am grateful to Benedikt Feldmann, Münster, who spotted the type specimens of *A. inescata*, suspected their novelty, communicated them to me for examination, contributed several additional records, and who proof-read the manuscript.

## **Zusammenfassung**

*Aleochara (Xenochara) inescata* nov.sp. (Nordspanien) aus der *A. laevigata*-Gruppe wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Der Holotypus von *A. rambouseki* LIKOVSKÝ 1964 wird revidiert und abgebildet. Weitere Nachweise von *Aleochara*-Arten der Untergattung *Xenochara* MULSANT & REY 1874 werden aus der Paläarktis gemeldet, darunter acht Erstnachweise.

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